

BIG PUBLIC UTILITY CONTINUES GROWTH

Montreal Light & Power Co.
Raises Gross Earnings to
\$10,000,000

WATER POWER DOES IT
Dividends of Banking Institu-
tions Show Increase Since
Armistice.

Special Correspondence to THE SON.
MONTREAL, May 26.—The Montreal
Light, Heat and Power Commission, the

Stouffer Company, Consolidated, which grows out as easily the largest public utility in Canada, with a reputation of being one of the best managed corporations on the continent, maintains with its 1918-19 statement a long record of progressive growth. Gross earnings were \$10,295,272, compared with the previous high record of \$10,380,684 in 1917-18. The higher ratio of operating expenses common to all like enterprises reduced net from operation to \$5,681,780, against \$6,622,916, the high mark reached the year before, but the decrease was nominal.

and left the general position of the company undisturbed.

For 1962, the company had a substantial sum of \$948,927 for depreciation, nearly 10 per cent of the gross income, meeting fixed charges and paying the regular 4 per cent dividend on the \$64,126,000 stock. There was a balance of \$1,022,880 to carry forward to surplus account.

The financial position of the corporation is one of steadily increasing strength. Current assets at \$5,938,919, compared with current liabilities of \$2,696,867, leave a surplus of \$3,242,052, leaving the working capital surplus of \$5,243,052, an increase of upward of \$1,000,000 in the year. Total assets at \$76,874,277 are up about \$1,300,000

Controls Water Power.

The secret of the company's success in meeting the problem of high costs of labor and material—a problem that has forced many of the strongest public utilities to pay the price of the non-dividend paying class during the war—lies in its control of some of the most valuable water power developments in the country. The Shawinigan Rapids Company, one of its subsidiaries, is operating on the St. Lawrence River in the neighborhood of 120,000-horsepower, and will generate about 200,000-horsepower. Much of the company's present power from this source, and in addition the company works in close cooperation with the Shawinigan Water and Power Company, which has a development on the St. Maurice River has con-

The wise direction of the big water powers owned by Montreal Power, Shawinigan Power and Laurentide, with a total output in the neighborhood of 500,000 horse-power and all virtually in the control of the same interests, is the biggest factor in industrial progress in this part of the country. The centre of electrical energy has been in course of transfer from Niagara to the St. Lawrence.

San-Montreal district until, as President J. E. Aldred of the Shawinigan company stated recently, there is now no longer any possibility that Niagara has lost its former position.

In the war years when the provincial owned water powers of Ontario, under the administration of the Hydro Electric Commission, were meeting the increased demands made upon them by private owned and privately controlled companies of Quebec never turned away a single drop of water. When the demands there were always met, the province of Ontario and at what price was to be the lowest on the continent. The importance of this when the manufacture of munitions was at its height is obvious. The province can be seen to have been in a position to be reasonably understood. The final test of the situation came after the United

States entered the war. Because of the increased power the Washington authorities possess, a majority of the Shawinigan company the building of one of the largest acetic acid plants in the world to round off its programme of explosives.

Quebec, as a province, is very proud of the fine record of its privately owned industrial and public ownership in iron, which Quebec considers a great achievement. On the whole, however, the province is full of ironical and reckless, is not likely to take hold here so long the present government is in power. The good news is that the province is not so much as the men like Sir Herbert Holt, president of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, who is a very good friend of the Shawinigan Water and Power Company, by his genius for organization and management, have done much to improve the public ownership of the public ownership, with the result that Quebec is today attracting a larger share of capital for investment than any other province in Canada.

Two kind of Allen Radcliffe

A few weeks ago, when outbreaks of serious labor troubles were being reported from many parts of the world, your correspondent had occasion to mention, in one of his letters, that, all things considered, Canada was about the most peaceful and most pleasant place in the world.

The news from Winnipeg during the week would seem to call for a revision of the opinion then expressed; but, at the same time, there is probably a tendency to attach more importance to the Winnipeg situation than to the

disparate mutterings from labor leaders in different parts of the country, there is no sense of widespread disturbance, and it is not clear that the situation is such as to hinder the progress of Winnipeg as an industrial centre. The West is still a very small factor in the industrial activity of the United States.

The West is inevitably radical; and eradication of a dangerous sort owes no small part of its development to the influence of the western population. With that element Canada has no opinion of most authorities, has adopted an altogether too kindly policy. The first mistake of our government was in failing to take the western problem upon the United States got into the war, was warmly commended here for its first war policy was shaped slowly, and it was not in the least a Canadian war and not a long one—and we drifted. Washington, when it decided on its course of action, had had no experience of the kind in any other countries through more than two years of war.

One result of the Winnipeg situation will probably be a much firmer attitude on the part of the United States when enemy troublemaker. There is growing realization that German intrigue is still capable of a great deal of mischief, and that Canada's position in a crisis must not be jeopardized by a policy of paternal elegance in dealing with the foreign element of the population.

The prospect for Canada's banking institutions is reflected in the lengthening list of dividend increases since the

One of the older banks, the Imperial Bank of Canada, issued its statement for 1918-19 during the last week and reported a substantial gain in profits, these amounting to \$1,247,516, against \$1,185,066 a year ago and \$1,122,819 two years ago. Total assets of the bank rose to about \$112,000,000, an increase

2,410,000,000 in the year